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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,974	05/13/2002	Andrea Heilemann	H 4172 PCT/US	4429

23657 7590 05/20/2003

COGNIS CORPORATION  
2500 RENAISSANCE BLVD., SUITE 200  
GULPH MILLS, PA 19406

EXAMINER

KRISHNAN, GANAPATHY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1623

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/030,974

Applicant(s)

HEILEMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Ganapathy Krishnan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31 and 36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-23, 25-28 and 32-35, 37, 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 24, 29 and 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some \*   c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.                      6) ☐ Other:

### DETAILED ACTION

The following information provided in the preliminary amendment affects the application:

1. Claims 1-18 have been cancelled without prejudice.
2. New claims 19-38 have been added.

Claims 19-38 are pending. An office action on the merits of claims 19-38 is contained herein below.

Only english abstracts of foreign language documents listed in the information disclosure statement were considered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 19-23, 25-28, 32-35 and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 01062302.

JP 01062302 discloses a chitosan salt that is soluble in water at a pH of about 6-8 and is produced by neutralizing an acid solution of the chitosan with carbonate. In particular, the acid solution is obtained by mixing an organic acid (e.g. formic acid, acetic acid, lactic acid or sulphamic acid) or an inorganic acid (hydrochloric or nitric acid) with the chitosan and

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dissolving this mixture in water. The precipitant used is a carbonate (ammonium (bi) carbonate, sodium (bi) carbonate, potassium (bi) carbonate or calcium (bi) carbonate). The neutralized aqueous solution is then freeze-dried and the powder obtained is dissolved in water before use. The salt is used as a thickening agent in food preparations and as a moisturizing agent in cosmetic preparations. The viscosity of the aqueous mixture of chitosan is inherent.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kawamura et al US 4833237 (see col. 5, line 22 through col.6, line 21).

Claims 24, 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 31 and 36 drawn to a process for preparing cross-linker free composition of cationically-derivatized chitosan and the cross-linker free chitosan composition so obtained seems to be free of prior art. The process and the composition as instantly claimed is not taught or fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ganapathy Krishnan whose telephone number is 703-305-4837. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James O. Wilson can be reached on 703-308-4624. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-305-3014 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

GK

May 19, 2003

  
SAMUEL BARTS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1200